

harder. And I appreciate you coming, Elizabeth. Thank you for being here. We look forward to hearing your story.

[Elizabeth Stallans, parent of a DC student, made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you, Elizabeth. Very good. Thank you, Elizabeth. There's strong testimony. Thank you both.

Listen, John, thanks for having us. I've got to say something about the Catholic schools in America. The Catholic school system provides an incredibly important service in our country. They serve as a model. They also take on a lot of students that are the so-called hard-to-educate but always do a good job. They're willing to help with the financially disadvantaged parent. Catholic schools are an incredibly important part of the fabric of our country, and I want to thank the educators who are here. I want to thank you for the service you provide.

I know you share with me a deep desire that all schools do well, all school systems achieve the national objective, which is excellence for every child, regardless of their background. There's no doubt in my mind we can achieve it. In order to achieve it, you've got to have the right mindset, and you must be willing to challenge the status quo when it's failing. This society must be willing to never accept mediocrity when it comes to the education of our children.

You know, the President has got a pretty big microphone. I've got a chance to spotlight success. And by coming here today, I am spotlighting success, this success that we want to be a success all over the District of Columbia. We want people to be able to compete with you, John.

Mr. Butler. I look forward to that.

The President. Yes, sir. I know you do, because you love children—

Mr. Butler. I do.

The President. —from the bottom of your heart. So do I. Thank you all for coming. I want to wish the seniors all the very best. I want to congratulate you. Would the seniors stand up, please?

Thank you—thank you for letting us come. Thank you for letting me come. Remember, your senior year isn't over until you graduate.

[Laughter] Good luck in college. Good luck whatever you decide to do.

May God bless you. May God bless this high school. And may God continue to bless our great country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:49 p.m. at Archbishop Carroll High School. In his remarks, he referred to James Mumford, principal, Archbishop Carroll High School; Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington; Theodore E. Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington; Patricia Weitzel-O'Neill, superintendent of schools, Archdiocese of Washington; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of the District of Columbia.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, in the Oval Office, the President participated in an interview with Tim Russert of NBC television's "Meet the Press" for broadcast on February 8. He also had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia to conclude an Australia-U.S. free trade agreement.

February 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Springfield, MO, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Travis Morrison.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Residence, he met with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert to discuss legislative priorities.

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Danilovich to be Ambassador to Brazil.

February 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Chairman Gyude Bryant of Liberia. He then participated in an interview with the HBO cable television channel for a documentary on the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City.

Later in the morning, the President had a meeting with economic leaders to discuss efforts to strengthen the national economy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cathy M. MacFarlane to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Public Affairs.

February 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, at the historic Evermay house, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dawn A. Tisdale to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marc M. Wall to be Ambassador to Chad.

The President announced his intention to designate Arden Bement, Jr., as Acting Director of the National Science Foundation.

February 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Harrisburg, PA, where, upon arrival, he greeted volunteer Lauren Simkulak.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gregory B. Jaczko to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard S. Williamson as U.S. Representative on the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and to nominate him for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service.

The President announced his appointment of Charles M. Vest and Henry S. Rowen as members of the Commission on the Intel-

ligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction.

February 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he and Vice President Dick Cheney met with U.S. State Governors who recently returned from a tour of Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Cheney.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia to the White House on February 18.

The President declared a major disaster in South Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe ice storm on January 26–30.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 9

Enrique J. Sosa,
of Florida, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Linwood Holton, term expired.

Submitted February 11

Cathy M. MacFarlane,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Diane Leneghan Tomb, resigned.

Dennis C. Shea,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Alberto Faustino Trevino, resigned.

Dawn A. Tisdale,
of Texas, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2006, vice William H. Leblanc III, term expired.